UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22099*
22 January 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement concerning ongoing events in the Gulf region, as issued on 17 January 1991 by the official Jordanian spokesman.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdullah SALAH
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

Annex

Text of a statement issued on 17 January 1991 by the official Jordanian spokesman

Since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, Jordan has been doing its utmost to address its causes and its consequences within an Arab framework. In the first days of the crisis, its leadership was able to obtain an Iraqi commitment to withdraw from Kuwait, and a time was established for that withdrawal to begin. Jordan also obtained Iraq's agreement to attend a mini-summit meeting at Jeddah in order to address the underlying causes that had led to the eruption of the crisis. However, the insistence on the adoption of a resolution by the Arab League, represented by the Arab Ministers of Foreign Affairs, as well as the emergence of extreme and inflexible positions among certain Arab parties, both facilitated the adoption by the Security Council of successive resolutions on the crisis.

This was followed by the arrival of foreign forces in the region, which obstructed the withdrawal from Kuwait at its very outset and aborted the hoped-for mini-summit meeting at Jeddah.

Jordan continued to strive for a peaceful solution, but its repeated attempts encountered obstacles from a number of parties which were clearly determined, from the outset, on the war option and buying time to complete the mobilization of their forces in preparation for aggression against Iraq under the guise of implementing United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Jordan, which has always respected the resolutions of the Security Council and is committed to their implementation, regrets that a similar crisis in the region was not met with an accelerated adoption of resolutions, economic boycott and the threat of hostile action despite the lapse of a long period of time since the inception of that crisis and despite the fact that it gives rise to occupation and the expulsion of an Arab people from its homeland.

The leadership, Government and people of Jordan condemn the brutal assault in the early hours of today on a Moslem, Arab country and people - one that has always hastened to the assistance of its Arab brethren and unhesitatingly paid its due in terms of blood and sacrifice in all of the battles that have been imposed on the Arab nation - by an attack on its capital city in such massive force and with the possibility of continued strikes against it. All of those who took part in this attack will bear responsibility for it before Allah, man and history, for having set out to destroy an Arab military, scientific and human power and a proud and fraternal Arab and Moslem people which is part and parcel of our nation. May Allah guide and safeguard our nation, and enable us to protect the integrity of generations to come after us. It is from Allah that we seek succour.